

Message Text

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S E C R E T USNATO 2094

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NMOL, MPOL, NATO, OTRA
SUBJECT: GAO VISIT; REVIEW OF LINES OF COMMUNICATIONS.

REF: AMCONSUL FRANKFURT 261112Z MAR 75

SUMMARY: GAO SURVEY OF MRLOGAREUR PLAN HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO STUDY OF ALLIED LINE OF COMMUNICATION (LOC) THROUGH BENELUX, AND IN TURN TO EUROPEAN NATIONS' CAPABILITIES TO DEFEND THE LOC. THIS LATTER ASPECT HAS LED GAO TO CERTAIN CONCLUSIONS CONCERNING POLLIBILITY OF EUROPEAN COLLAPSE AFTER EARLY STAGES OF INTENSIVE COMBAT BECAUSE OF LACK OF WAR RESERVE MATERIAL (WRM). MISSION SUGGESTS THAT COMMANDS AND DOD AGENCIES WHICH MAY HAVE FUTHER CONTACT WITH GAO TEAM BE PREPARED TO REPLY TO ABOVE LINE OF ARGUMENT.

END SUMMARY

1. GAO REPS, CONAHAN (DIRECTOR OF FRANKFUT OFFICE), DARCY AND FOWLER VISITED USNATO APRIL 13-15 FOR EXIT BRIEFING ON LINE OF SECRET

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COMMUNICATION PROJECT CODE 943416(REFTEL). BRIEFING REVEALED FOLLOWING TENTATIVE GAO CONCLUSIONS:

A. FORMAL GAO REPORT IS REQUIRED.

B. GAO DOUBTS VALIDITY OF ARMY TESTIMONY BEFORE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE TO EFFECT THAT HOST NATIONS ARE FULLY CAPABLE OF LOC WARTIME DEFENSE IN VIEW OF LIMITATION TO AS LITTLE AS 7 DAYS SUPPLY OF CERTAIN CRITICAL AMMUNITION.

C. GAO BELIEVES THEREFORE THAT US EXPENDITURES TO IMPROVE BENELUX LOC AND TO STOCK CRITICAL ENGINEER EQUIPMENT MAY NOT BE WARRANTED SINCE TERRITORY MIGHT BE OVERRUN BEFORE LOC COULD BE ACTIVATED.

2. ABOVE GAO CONCLUSIONS RESULT FROM ADOPTION OF ALLEGED ARMY ASSUMPTION THAT HOSTILITIES WOULD BEGIN (D-DAY) SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH MOBILIZATION (NATO M-DAY); THUS FULL ACTIVATION OF BENELUX LOC WOULD NOT OCCUR BEFORE D PLUS 30 (WHICH WOULD ALSO BE M PLUS 30). INFORMATION WAS ALLEGEDLY OBTAINED FROM MODS (PARTICULARLY IN BONN) ON LOW HOST NATION WAR RESERVE STOCKS LEVELS FOR CRITICAL CONVENTIONAL WEAPON SYSTEMS LEADS THEM TO BELIEVE THAT EUROPEANS ARE INCAPABLE OF HOLDING THE NORTHERN GERMAN PLAINS FOR MORE THAN 7-15 DAYS. THEY CONCLUDE THEREFORE THAT BENELUX LOC COULD NOT BE DEFENDED MUCH BEYOND THAT PERIOD, AND HENCE WOULD BE OVERRUN BEFORE IT COULD BE UTILIZED.

3. MISSION OFFICERS ARGUED AS FOLLOWS:

A. CONSERVATIVE LOGISTICS PLANNING ASSUMPTION (M-DAY IS D-DAY) IS "WORST CASE" FOR LOC DEFENSE. NATO PREPARATION TIME WOULD IMPROVE PROSPECTS FOR LOC DEFENSE.

B. NATO GUIDANCE TO MODS REQUIRES AT LEAST 30 COMBAT DAYS SUPPLY OF CRITICAL WARTIME ITEMS. ALLIES HAVE BEEN MAKING PROGRESS TOWARD THIS GOAL, ESPECIALLY SINCE WRS BECAME A "BASIC ISSUE."

C. NATO IS WORKING ON PLANS FOR FLEXIBILITY IN CENTRAL EUROPE TO FACILITATE REINFORCEMENT OF AREAS UNDER THE MOST INTENSIVE ATTACK.

D. INDIVIDUAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, OVER AND ABOVE THEIR PRE-SECRET

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POSITIONED FORWARD STOCKS IN GERMANY, ALSO MAINTAIN AN UNKNOWN LEVEL OF SUPPLY WITHIN THEIR OWN BORDERS. THESE STOCKS WOULD PRESUMABLY BE AVAILABLE TO REINFORCE ANY AREAS OF SHORTAGE AT THE FORWARD DEFENSE LINES.

4. CURRENT LINE OF INVESTIGATION BY GAO HAS LED TEAM INTO SUCH RELATED SUBJECTS AS RESUPPLY PLANS FOR EUROPEAN NATIONS. TEAM IS COMING TO THE CONCLUSION THAT LITTLE RESUPPLY CAN BE EXPECTED OTHER THAN FROM NORTH AMERICAN SOURCES. THEY ARE THEREFORE ALSO LOOKING AT THE US "WARM PRODUCTION BASE" FOR SUCH THINGS AS AMMUNITION (WHETHER OR NOT COMPATIBLE WITH US MODELS) AND SPARE PARTS FOR EUROPEAN-OWNED WEAPON SYSTEMS.

5. MISSION BELIEVES THAT GAO REPRESENTATIVES PLAN OTHER EXIT BRIEFINGS AT USAREUR AND EUCOM AS WELL AS THE WASHINGTON DOD AGENCIES. SUGGEST INTERESTED DOD AGENCIES BE FULLY PREPARED AT EVERY LEVEL TO ADDRESS THEMSELVES TO THE GAO TENTATIVE CONCLUSIONS OUTLINED ABOVE.

BRUCE

SECRET

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THE HAGUE
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